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Cease-Fire Developments

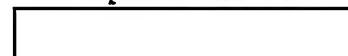
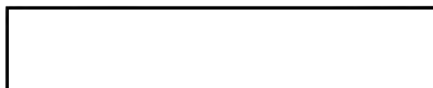
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State Dept. review completed

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Cease-Fire Developments

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The Military Situation

SOUTH VIETNAMThe Military Situation

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[redacted] the Communists are planning to intensify during May attacks of the kind they have been conducting against government areas since the cease-fire. [redacted] the Communists hope to make some limited gains in the territory and people they control, as well as to consolidate their position in some of the more intensely contested areas such as the northern districts of Binh Dinh Province. [redacted] these activities may be pegged to the period from 1 to 20 May, which includes three important holidays.

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Some ICCS members Pull Back from Border Posts

Canadian and Indonesian members may soon be withdrawn from the Duc Co and Ben Het border checkpoints because of health and security hazards. The US Embassy reports that there has been a rash of illnesses at these sites, and the Communists have so far been unwilling or unable to take corrective measures. The Communists are also unduly complicating aerial

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support activities; in one case, they refused to allow the medical evacuation of an Indonesian. The Indonesians have already decided to withdraw their team from An Loc, a sub-regional office north of Saigon, on 1 May. These withdrawals, if carried out, could well cause further delay in the dispatch of ICCS teams to Gio Linh and Lao Bao, the only two of the six border entry points specified in the Paris agreement where teams have not yet been placed.

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CAMBODIAThe Military Situation

Encountering only light enemy resistance, government forces completed sweep operations along the east bank of the Mekong opposite Phnom Penh over the weekend. Northwest of Phnom Penh, however, the operation to reopen Route 5 has been postponed indefinitely because of stiff Communist resistance that forced the abandonment of several small outposts. In the south, government forces have reoccupied the village of Tram Khnar along Route 3 after losing it briefly to the Communists on 29 April. Government forces have also again reoccupied the village of Siem Reap some 12 miles from Phnom Penh along Route 2. Farther south, government forces have expanded Takeo's defensive perimeter to the southeast and northeast, but continue to run up against strong resistance west of the town. [REDACTED]

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